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Letter dated 4 February 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey to Your Excellency the comments of the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of the Sudan as regards allegations against the Sudan by the Government of the Republic of Uganda as contained in document S/2001/84 dated 24 January 2001.

I should be grateful if you would have these comments circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mubarak Hussein **Rahmtalla**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 4 February 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of the Sudan

Comments on the claims and excuses advanced by the Government of Uganda concerning its invasion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

With reference to Security Council document S/2001/84 of 25 January 2001, which contains comments by the Government of Uganda on the interim report of the United Nations Expert Panel on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2001/49), I have the honour to convey to you our observations on paragraph 15 of that document, in which it is claimed that Uganda invaded the Democratic Republic of the Congo in order to protect its security interests against Sudanese-backed rebels.

1. This is not the first time the Government of Uganda has tried to make excu for its aggression against and invasion of the territory of a State that is a Member of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity in flagrant violation of the respective Charters of the two organizations. What is odd, though, is that in its letters Uganda has candidly admitted to the Security Council that it proceeded to invade the Democratic Republic of the Congo in order to protect its security interests and without heed for the international covenants and conventions that regulate relations between States and safeguard international peace and security. This is a twisted logic that, in theory, would justify any other State in attacking Uganda on the same grounds, given that many of Uganda's neighbouring States face grave security threats originating in Ugandan territory and given the direct support of the Ugandan Government for terrorists, outlaws, mercenaries and abductors of children. The admission of its invasion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that Uganda has presented to the Security Council confirms that it has no regard for the important role being played by the Council or for the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law.

2. The flimsy excuses advanced by the Government of Uganda for its wanton invasion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its comments on the report of the Expert Panel represent a desperate attempt to distract attention from the obvious and undeniable fact of the plunder of the country's wealth — its gold, diamonds and hardwoods — by the members of the corrupt clique in Uganda and its appropriation for their personal profit. This was confirmed by representatives of civil society when they met with the Expert Panel, as indicated in paragraph 27 of the report to the effect that the Ugandan People's Defence Force has confiscated goods and property and has forced citizens to pay taxes to fund the illegal war effort in which it is engaged.

3. The comments of the Ugandan regime to the Security Council lack any trace of credibility, and the allegations made came as no surprise to the Government of the Sudan. Uganda has, indeed, persistently sought to fabricate crises with the Sudan

and it is accustomed to showing its contempt for world public opinion by making artless claims that lack logic or objectivity and offend against reason. Indeed, the Ugandan regime should be the first to know that the claims it has made concerning its involvement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in order to contain an imaginary threat from the Sudan are groundless and unsupported by any evidence. Its statements concerning the Sudan's support for "rebels and their allied genocidaires" seek to create a political linkage between the Sudan and perpetrators of crimes of genocide whose criminal acts are constantly condemned by the Government of the Sudan on all possible occasions and in all possible forums.

4. The comments in question are to be regarded as pretexts given currency by the Ugandan regime for purposes of aggression against the Sudan. This is confirmed by the statement made by the Ugandan President on 26 January 2001 on the occasion of the anniversary of his accession to power in his country, when he said that he would undertake military operations inside the Sudan as he had done in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Anyone who has eyes to see is aware that Uganda has become a source of instability in the Great Lakes region, as is confirmed by the expansionist ambitions of its leaders and their endeavour to establish imaginary empires over the skulls of the innocent among the peoples of the region.

5. In closing, we should like to state that Uganda is still required to cooperate fully with the Security Council Expert Panel and to enable it to clarify the facts concerning the charges made against it of plundering the wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It must do this instead of raising distracting issues in order to justify its brutal aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the subsequent plunder of its natural resources.